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proposals of the commission were embodied in a bill which passed the House of Lords during the last session, but was lost in the House of Commons through the 'obstructive tactics of interested parties.' It is believed that the bill which will be presented during the next session will meet with better success. As pointed out by Professor Huxley in his address at the London hospital, 'three grave defects remain to be remedied:' viz., the low standard of examination allowed by some of the licensing bodies; the granting of licenses which do not involve proof of the holder's acquaintance with all three of the great branches of medical practice (namely, medicine, surgery, and midwifery); and the present state of the law, which does not permit the medical council to enforce equality of minimum examination, and the threefold qualification, before admitting a medical practitioner to the register. All of these points are included in the proposed bill.

It is further urged by those interested in the improvement of the profession, that liberal education should be a more general characteristic of its members, and that the student should bring to his medical course a more thorough preparation in physics, chemistry, and biology. Both of these ends will be furthered by the provision recently made in the two great universities for the sciences specified.

Socially the medical profession does not compare favorably with the other professions in England. The fact is curiously illustrated by an extract from a recent book quoted by Mr. W. H. Bennet in his address at St. George's hospital. "This choice of a profession," says the author, "is not an easy matter, when, as a rule, the church, the army, the bar, and the diplomatic service are almost the only professions open to a young fellow." Evidently, as Mr. Bennet observes, "the thought of medicine had never for an instant entered the writer's mind."

— Mr. Henry Brooks has prepared a useful series of specimens of the wood of several of the important timber-trees of the eastern states, for the use of teachers and students of natural history.

Each species is represented by three thin transparent sections of wood framed together, and cut in the direction of the layers of annual growth, at right angles with the grain, so as to show a cross-section of the trunk. The specimens mounted between thin sheets of mica permit a satisfactory examination of the position and size of the different ducts, cells, medullary rays, etc., besides showing admirably the color and general character of different woods. Architects and builders, therefore, as well as teachers, will find Mr. Brooks's contribution to a knowledge of our trees of considerable practical value. Complete sets, representing seventeen species, or single sheets, can be obtained by addressing Mr. Henry Brooks, 35 Bedford Street, Boston.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

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Bacas, D., and Escadón, R. Teoría elemental de las determinantes, y sus aplicaciones al álgebra y á la trigonometría. Madrid, 1883. 196 p. 4°.

Berthelot, M. P. E. Explosive materials. Translated by M. Benjamin. With a short historical sketch of gunpowder, translated from the German of Karl Braun by Lieut. J. P. Wiser, U.S.A., and a bibliography of works on explosives. New York, Van Nostrand, 1883. (Van Nostrand's sc. ser., no. 70.) 180 p. 24°.

Bottéro, E., and Magistrelli, C. Il telefono; con prefazione del Pietro Blaserna. Torino, Loescher, 1883. 82 p. 8°.

Bourguignat, J. R. Aperçu sur les Unionidae de la péninsule Italique. Paris, 1883. 117 p. 8°.

Breloow, G., and Hoyer, E. Lexikon der mechanischen technologie. Leipzig, 1883. 824 p., illustr. 8°.

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Dragnetoff, G. Plant-analysis, qualitative and quantitative. Translated by G. Greenish. London, Baillière, 1883. 8°.

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Exposition d'électricité, Paris. Expériences faites par Alard, Le Blanc, Potier, et Tresca. Méthodes d'observation; machines et lampes à courant continu, à courants alternatifs; lampe à incandescence; accumulateur; transport électrique du travail; machines diverses. Paris, 1883. illustr. 12°.

Franck, L. Kleine vergleichende anatomie der hausthiere. Stuttgart, 1883. 400 p., illustr. 8°.

Girard, M. Histoire naturelle; deuxième année. t. 1. Notices générales; anatomie et physiologie; mammifères; oiseaux. Paris, Delagrave, 1883. 11+708 p., illustr. 16°.

Gressent, E. Einträchtiger obstbau. Neue anleitung, auf kleinen raum mit mässigen kosten regelmässig viele und schöne früchte in guten sorten zu erzielen. Berlin, 1883. illustr. 8°.

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Wood, J. G. New illustrated natural history: with designs by Wolf, Zwecker, Weir, and others. London, 1883. 796 p. royal 8°.